Conversion of dry latrines into wet latrines

4496. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: .

(a) whether Government have adopted a definite time frame for conversion of dry latrines into wet ones in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to demolish all the dry latrines in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. However, Government is assisting the State Governments for early conversion of all dry latrines into wet ones in the rural areas of the country.

(b) and (c) There are no fresh step taken to demolish all the dry latrines in rural areas of the country. However, Government has restructured the Central Rural Sanitation Programme in 1999 and revised Guidelines have been issued for implementing the Programme. States and U.T. Governments have been directed to utilise the funds allocated to them for conversion of dry latrines. As per the latest reports received from the States, dry latrines are in existence in six States and U.Ts. only, namely, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Responsibility for cultivation of barren land

† 4497. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility for making the entire wasteland in the country cultivable has been entrusted to an institute by Government by integrating all the existing plans;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.